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Amendments to the specification:

Please amend the section on page 4, second full paragraph to page 5, line 7 as follows:

In order to solve the problems, the invention provides a data transfer apparatus interposed between a plurality of host apparatuses which perform a data transfer, and peripheral apparatuses which receive transfer data from the host apparatuses and process the data, for controlling a data transfer from the host apparatuses to the peripheral apparatuses, the data transfer apparatus comprising:

a plurality of host I/Fs disposed so as to be in a one-to one correspondence with the host apparatuses, for transmitting and receiving data to and from the corresponding host apparatuses, each of the plurality of host I/Fs having a ~~resister~~register for holding a data transfer request from the corresponding host apparatus;

a rewritable priority table;

I/F selecting means for selecting one from among the host I/Fs holding a data transfer request, to be enabled to perform the data transfer, referring contents of the priority table; and

connecting means for connecting the host I/F which is selected by the I/F selecting means, to the peripheral apparatus.